

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 2829

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECRP, ENRG, BU
SUBJECT: CERP 4250: PETROLEUM STATISTICS

REF: A) STATE A-6598 OF OCTOBER 22
B) SOFIA 1092
C) SOFIA 2517

1. BULGARIAN PETROLEUM STATISTICS REMAIN EXTRMELY CLOSELY HELD, AND MOST GOB OFFICIALS ARE UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO SUPPLY ANY STATISTICAL INFORMATION. SOURCES WILLING TO TALK, HOWEVER, WILL ADMIT THAT PRICES BULGARIA PAYS FOR PETROLEUM FROM USSR (WHICH ANNUALLY HAS SUPPLIED AN ESTIMATED 75 TO 90 PERCENT OF BULGARIA'S PETROLEUM NEEDS) ARE COMPARABLE TO THOSE PAID BY OTHER CEMA PARTNERS, WITH ONLY MINOR DIFFERENCES DUE TO TRANSPORTATION COSTS.

2. BULGARIAN STATISTICAL SPRAVOCHNIK (HANDBOOK) AND IZVESTIYA (ANNOUNCEMENT) PUBLICATIONS LIST BULGARIA'S TOTAL PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AS 144 THOUSAND METRIC TONS AND ITS TOTAL IMPORTS AS 10,629 THOUSAND TONS FOR 1974. IN ADDITION, IZVESTIYA SHOWS PETROLEUM IMPORTS FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1975 AS 4,811 THOUSAND TONS AND JULY IMPORTS AS ADDITIONAL 754 THOUSAND TONS. THIS RATE OF IMPORTS IF CARRIED
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THROUGH ENTIRE YEAR OF 1975 WOULD BE MUCH LESS THAN

13.5 MILLION TONS ANTICIPATED IN REFTEL B. SEEMING
FURTHER REBUTTAL OF ACCURACY OF IZVESTIYA IMPORT FIGURE,
FIRST DEPUTY PREMIER TANO TSOLOV INFORMED
AMBASSADOR THAT PETROLEUM IMPORTS FROM SOVIET UNION
ALONE IN 1975 WOULD AMOUNT TO 10.5 MILLION TONS
(REFTEL C).

3. AS REGARDS 1976, THE FEW PIECES OF PUZZLE
AVAILABLE ARE FRAGMENTARY AND VERY POSSIBLY INCONSISTENT.
IN SAME MEETING MENTIONED ABOVE, TSOLOV TOLD
AMBASSADOR IMPORTS FROM SOVIET UNION IN 1976
WOULD AMOUNT TO 12.5 MILLION TONS. IN BRIEF ARTICLE
PUBLISHED DECEMBER 28, IT WAS ANNOUNCED FROM MOSCOW
THAT FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATION (FTO) NEFTOCHIM
SIGNED CONTRACT WITH SOVIET FTO SOYUZNEFTEXPORT UNDER
WHICH BULGARIA WILL IMPORT FROM USSR CRUDE OIL,
MAZUT, GASOLINE, LUBRICATING OILS, AND DCYJR PETRO-
CHEMICAL PRODUCTS WORTH 440 MILLION RUBLES IN 1976.
ACCORDING TO WEST GERMAN DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES,
MINISTER FOREIGN TRADE NEDEV DURING ZHIVKOV VISIT
TO FRG STATED PRICE OF SOVIET OIL IN 1976 WOULD GO UP
35 PERCENT.

4. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE STRAWS, EMBASSY ALSO UNDER-
STANDS FROM IRANIAN AND EGYPTIAN COLLEAGUES THAT THEIR
COUNTRIES WILL NOT BE SUPPLYING AMOUNTS TO BULGARIA IN 1976
GREATER THAN WAS SUPPLIED IN 1975; IN FACT, EGYPTIAN
IMPLIED THERE WOULD BE NO EXPORTS FROM HIS COUNTRY
TO BULGARIA IN 1976.
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